

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANDREW S. CLYDE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

Mr. CLYDE. Madam Speaker, I was not present in the House Chamber for Roll Call Vote no. 13. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 13.

HONORING COUNCILMEMBER WENDY SKILLMAN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Cotati City Councilmember Wendy Skillman on the occasion of her retirement after more than eight years of dedicated service to our community.

Councilmember Skillman's record as a public servant traces back to 2008, when she first moved to Cotati. As a member of the city's Community and Environment Commission, she organized beloved events including the annual Christmas tree lighting and the ever-popular Pasta Feed and Bingo Night. After more than three years as the Commission's Secretary and later Vice Chair, she assumed the role of Cotati Planning Commissioner, where she developed strategies in cooperation with local businesses and homeowners to grow the city's economy while protecting its small-town charm. Those she worked with appreciated her ability to find common ground and advance solutions that served everyone's interests.

Following her initial foray into city politics, Councilmember Skillman ran a successful campaign for City Council in 2012. Focusing on affordable housing and championing local small businesses, she generated wide-spread community support that carried her to a resounding reelection victory four years later. Throughout her terms, she has prioritized cooperation and compromise, leading to many successes. Under her watch, the city emerged from its financial troubles, not only keeping public services operational, but expanding the Police Department, adding new Public Works employees, and kick-starting recreation programs. Well respected by her fellow Council Members, she served with distinction as the Vice Mayor of Cotati in 2014 and 2019 and as Mayor in 2015 and 2020. Her leadership, dedication, and tenacity will surely be missed by her colleagues and constituents.

Madam Speaker, Councilmember Wendy Skillman exemplifies the very best qualities that our community looks to in a leader. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

HONORING LONG-TIME PUBLIC SERVANTS IN PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA

HON. ANN KIRKPATRICK

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize four important community leaders in Tucson and Southern Arizona. These public servants have now completed their service to Pima County, Arizona, and they deserve high distinction. They include Mr. Ramon Valadez, Pima County Supervisor; F. Ann Rodriguez, Pima County Recorder; Bill Staples, Pima County Assessor; and Barbara LaWall, Pima County Attorney. Each of these distinguished Arizonans has dedicated many years of their lives and their careers to serve our people. They provided security, integrity, dedication, and the highest leadership. Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in celebrating the public service of these exemplary individuals, to wish them good luck in their future endeavors, and to join me in recommending that young leaders seeking careers in public service look to them as models of what it means to live a good life in the service of things larger than oneself.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF CAPTAIN PERCY OWENS NORWOOD JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of a remarkable individual, retired Captain Percy Owens Norwood Jr.

Retired U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Percy Owens Norwood Jr. was born February 14, 1946, in Memphis to Percy and Charlie Lott Norwood. Capt. Norwood of Carrollton, 74, was called to his heavenly home on Friday, November 27, 2020, at Tyler Holmes Memorial Hospital in Winona.

As a young man, Capt. Norwood enlisted in the United States Coast Guard on November 20, 1970. After almost 30 years of outstanding and dedicated service to our nation, he retired with the rank of captain on October 1, 2000. At the time of his retirement, he held three key positions: Commanding officer of Coast Guard Headquarters Support Command, commanding officer of Coast Guard Headquarters staff, and executive officer of Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Percy received numerous personal awards that include the Legion of Merit, two Meritorious Service Medals, two Coast Guard Commendation Medals, and the Coast Guard Achievement Medal. His nonmilitary awards include the National Image Incorporated Award (1993), the

National Naval Officers Association's (NNOA) Dorie Miller Award (1993), the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO) Distinguished Alumni Award (1995), and the NAACP Roy Wilkins Renown Service Award (1995). Mr. Norwood was inducted into the Alcorn State University Hall of Honor in 2006 for his outstanding leadership and service and elected by his fellow Alumni as Alcornite of the Year in 2008 as Alcorn State University most distinguished alumnus.

Capt. Norwood leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Bessie Marie Norwood; his children, Angelia Lavette Collins, Kelvin King Shaifer, Lindsey Marie Norwood Carson (Nathaniel), and Matthew Reginald Norwood; his grandchildren Devon, Shy, Nathaniel III, Alexis and Camerin; his great-grandchildren, Alex, Emberly and Zaniyah; his siblings Laura Norwood Davis, Willie Norwood, James Norwood (Rosie) and Ruther Flowers; his sister-in-law, Verna Norwood; his god-sister, Willie Mae Smith; his aunt, Emma Harrison; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life, legacy and service of Captain Percy Owens Norwood Jr.

CALLING FOR THE ABOLITION OF THE FEDERAL DEATH PENALTY

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to condemn the use of capital punishment in the United States and to call for its abolition.

Capital punishment is an unjust and inhumane practice. It is past time we join developed democracies throughout the world and abolish this barbaric practice.

The death penalty in the United States is deeply unfair and inequitable. It is a sentence disproportionately given to people of color, individuals with mental illness and the economically disadvantaged. Black people make up less than 13 percent of the nation's population while accounting for more than 42 percent of those on death row. And despite the Supreme Court ruling that intellectual disability lessens moral culpability, an estimated five to ten percent of all death row inmates suffer from a severe mental illness. The death penalty is also overwhelmingly imposed on poor people, with 95 percent of death row defendants from underprivileged backgrounds.

The methods of execution used in the United States are unquestionably inhumane. States still allow people to be put to death by hanging, firing squad, electrocution and gas chamber. Although the recent adoption of lethal injection is purportedly more humane, recent botched executions have resulted in agonizing and prolonged deaths for individuals—undeniably a cruel and unusual punishment.

As long as the death penalty exists, innocent individuals will be convicted and sentenced to death. Since 1973, 172 former

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